

WAR WITH RED CHINA?

Pentagon-CIA Faction Favors It

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Behind - Scenes Forces
Have Backed Chiang,
Who Could Start Con-
flict With Invasion

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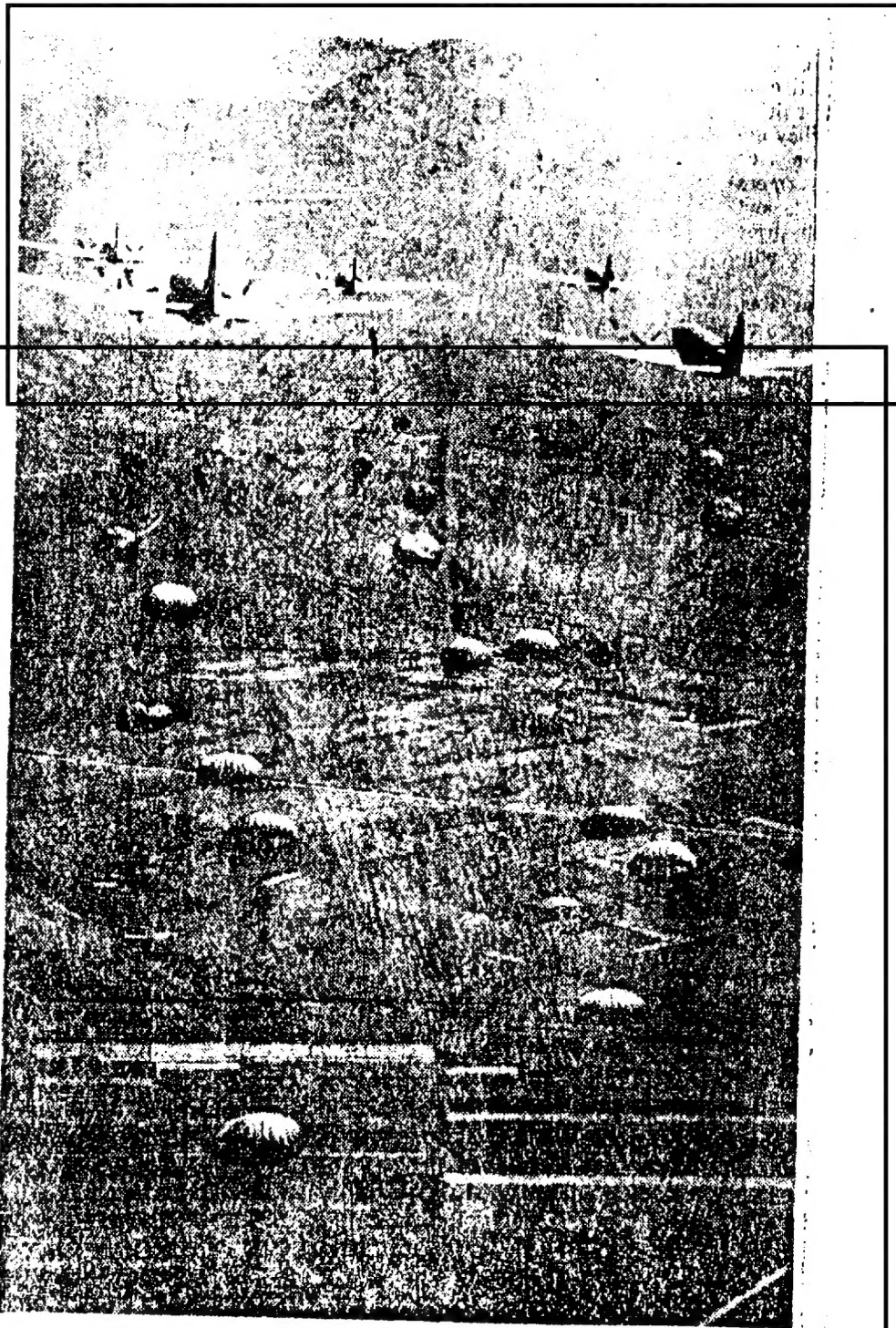
WASHINGTON, May 18

AS THE PRESSURE of the Com-
munists in Laos increases, a fa-
miliar shadow again darkens the
eastern horizon. Because the
United States ignores Red China
does not mean that it will conven-
iently fold up, nor does it mean
that the increasing thrust of Chi-
nese imperialism will not be felt
throughout Asia.

If there are two Chinas—Chiang Kai-
shek's Formosa, and the Communist main-
land—there are also two China policies
within the United States Government. Pow-
erful forces in the Pentagon and the Cen-
tral Intelligence Agency have never aban-
doned the view that American interests in
the Far East cannot be safeguarded short
of a direct confrontation with Red China.

THE OFFICIAL policy is to build up
Chiang on Formosa as a theoretical alter-
native to the Red dictatorship. Some three
billion dollars in American military and
economic aid have gone into the island,
which is about one-third the size of Cuba
with nearly twice the population. Chiang
continues to promise a return to the main-
land, but he has signed an agreement that
he will not undertake an invasion without
the consent of the United States. Official
policy set by the President is opposed to
any invasion attempt, in the conviction
that such an attempt would be suicidal
under present circumstances.

What points this up are recurring
rumors that Chiang, now 75 years old,
means nevertheless to make the try. He
has had strong support in the past from
the Pentagon-CIA faction that believes
in a direct conflict with China. And de-
spite the fact that a high civilian official
of the Pentagon went to Formosa spec-
ifically to tell the Generalissimo that
invasion plans could not be realized
without massive United States support,



Paratroopers of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Chinese forces and soldiers of
the U.S. Army's 503rd Airborne Battalion, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's
in southern Formosa, the largest since World War II.